

SPONSORSHIP GUIDELINES

of the Studienfonds OWL Foundation

for granting the

Social Scholarship

to German and foreign college students

GOALS

Fostering students. Strengthening OWL.

The state colleges in Ostwestfalen-Lippe (OWL), North Rhine-Westphalia, with a cumulative total of over 50,000 students, established Studienfonds OWL, the only cooperative initiative of its kind in Germany, in order to

- help ensure that every capable person who desires to study is able to, regardless of their social background or financial situation;
- give private individuals and companies the possibility to become socially involved and aid students in their personal and career development;
- attract particularly talented students to OWL; and
- strengthen OWL as an economic and college region.

The Studienfonds OWL Foundation sponsors both German and foreign students alike.

I. Application requirements

1. Scholarships can only be granted to students who send in an application.
2. German and foreign students may apply who are verifiably in **critical financial or personal circumstances** that endanger an applicant's ability to be admitted to college or to continue their college studies and can demonstrate at least satisfactory academic performance in high school or college.
3. The scholarship can only be granted to college students who are lawfully enrolled at one of the following five colleges in their first college career path, or to high-school students or anyone else planning to begin their first college career path at one of the following five colleges:
 - **University Bielefeld**
 - **University Paderborn**
 - **Bielefeld University of Applied Sciences**
 - **University of Applied Sciences Ostwestfalen-Lippe**
 - **Hochschule für Musik Detmold**
4. A Master's program that builds up on a Bachelor's degree counts as a single college career path. Foreign students may apply for a scholarship to finance a second college career path if the first college career path was abroad.
5. Students are not legally entitled to be granted a scholarship.
6. If an applicant is receiving financial aid from one or more other institutions, this information must be included in the scholarship application. With regard to the Social Scholarship, support from another organization granted during a time that overlaps with the Social Scholarship is not possible. In other words, students applying for a scholarship from Studienfonds OWL for solely financial reasons will be accepted only if they are not also receiving financial support from another sponsorship organization (BAföG, German federal financial student aid, not included).

II. Breadth of scholarship

Scholarship length and amount

The scholarship generally amounts to €1,000 per year.

The scholarship's initial length is two semesters. Scholarship students may apply to extend the length of the scholarship.

Students are not legally entitled to an extension of the scholarship beyond the initial two semesters.

Requirements for an extension beyond the initial two semesters:

- Studienfonds OWL has enough donation funding available to finance the scholarship and
- The scholarship student continues to fulfill the requirements for sponsorship.

If both of the above requirements are fulfilled, the sponsorship can be extended on a yearly basis. The last installment of the scholarship is paid in the final approved semester. It is possible in some cases for a scholarship student, after speaking with the Studienfonds OWL Foundation, to interrupt his/her studies and therefore also his/her scholarship.

If a scholarship student travels abroad as a part of his/her course of studies, the scholarship will continue to be paid as usual.

During a scholarship student's pregnancy, the scholarship will continue to be paid during the periods of protection specified in the *Mutterschutzgesetz* (Maternity Protection Act). Despite this, the interruption of the student's studies caused by the pregnancy does not count as a part of his scholarship term.

Termination of sponsorship for no longer fulfilling the sponsorship requirements

If a scholarship student no longer fulfills the criteria upon which the approval was based, the sponsorship is ended at the end of the current semester. The scholarship recipient is obligated to notify the offices of the Studienfonds OWL immediately of such changes in his personal and/or financial situation.

Cultivating ideals

The Studienfonds OWL Foundation fosters its scholarship students not only financially, but also cultivates their ethics and ideals. For this, the Studienfonds OWL along with its funders run an Ideals Cultivation Program, in which scholarship students can regularly enjoy opportunities and events such as:

- contact to businesses in OWL
- workshops, seminars, talks
- tours of companies
- internship positions
- help in matching a student with projects and theses
- evenings by the fire with interesting personalities
- mentoring
- academic exchange
- cultural events
- meetings among scholarship students

Studienfonds OWL does its best to enliven the relationships between funders and students. In this way, students receive much more than the scholarship itself; they accumulate relationships for their careers, experiences, additional knowledge, and soft skills. In doing so, the personal and career development of the scholarship students is central.

Regular and active participation in the Ideals Cultivation Program is desired of the scholarship students.

III. Application

Applying before college

High school students, vocational trainees, and others interested in beginning their studies at a college in the near future can apply. The scholarship is paid only after the student has submitted to Studienfonds OWL his current enrollment certification.

Sending in the application

If you fulfill the requirements listed under Section 1 and would like to apply for sponsorship through the Studienfonds OWL Foundation, gather all of the necessary documents (see Section IV, Application documents) and send them by email to:

Sandra Haberland: s.haberland@studienfonds-owl.de

All that should be sent by post is the completed and signed participation form on pages 5 and 6 of the Guide to Applying for the Social Scholarship. You can find the guide on www.studienfonds-owl.de. Please send the participation form to:

Stiftung Studienfonds OWL
z. Hd. Sandra Haberland
Warburger Str. 100
D-33098 Paderborn
GERMANY

Only applications that were sent in complete and on time are considered.

Application deadline

Application deadline for Summer semester 2017 is February 28, 2017, and for the Winter semester 2017/18 August 31, 2017. Timeliness of an application is measured by the actual receipt of the application, not the date of the postmark. Announcements of approval or rejection for a scholarship is usually made around September and April of each year.

Selection criteria

The most important criteria for granting this need-based scholarship is pressing financial or personal need or hardship that endangers an applicant's ability to begin or continue their college studies.

Severe disability also qualifies as a hardship; those severely disabled will be favored in cases of otherwise equal eligibility. Applicants' social involvement is considered of secondary importance in the selection process.

Selection process

Studienfonds OWL accepts the applications and checks to see if they fulfill the formal criteria. Next, all applications are assessed and evaluated by the relevant selection committee. Applicants' data is treated confidentially. Please also read the privacy information in the Guide to Applying for the Social Scholarship.

The selection committee for the Social Scholarships is composed of five students from the five colleges that participate in the Studienfonds OWL. The committee examines the applications sent to them and recommends the applicants they consider most qualified to the foundation board. Based on the recommendations, the board finally decides which students it will grant scholarships to. The applicants are then notified in writing by the office of the results.

Application interviews do not take place.

The scholarships are presented in a formal ceremony (Stipendienvergabe) in the first few weeks of the Winter semester. Scholarship recipients are sent the event date well in advance.

The scholarship begins in the Winter semester in October, in the Summer semester in April.

IV. Application documents

- **Completely filled out and signed participation form** in the document Guide to Applying for the Social Scholarship (can be found as a downloadable form on our website, www.studienfonds-owl.de)

- **Application documents:**
 - Signed Personal statement (Note: Please read the Guidelines for Your Personal Statement on www.studienfonds-owl.de.)
 - Résumé
 - Current photo (optional)
 - High school final grade transcript (or the last prior if the final transcript is not yet available). For foreign certifications, a state-notarized translation with grade equivalents for the German school system (particularly in the format necessary for your application or enrollment at your college; if you are unsure, please ask your respective college)
 - College enrollment confirmation, if available, with your current semester of study (Note: For those only beginning their studies, this will be requested at a later time if you are granted the scholarship)
 - College grade transcript, if available
 - If applicable: Final diploma or transcript of previous college(s) (e.g., if you've changed colleges and/or are beginning a Master's program)
 - Confirmations of volunteer-based social involvement (e.g., working at religious institutions, associations, or clubs), distinctions, prizes, stays abroad, other knowledge
 - Certifications and confirmation of internships and jobs
 - Proof of personal, familial, or health circumstances relevant to your application.
 - Proof of your financial situation by a statement of cost with supporting documents, i.e. income statements for the last three months (current proof of personal income as well as proof of parents' and/or spouse's income)
 - Statement from BAföG (official confirmation from the BAföG offices either that the applicant is not receiving BAföG, e.g., letter of rejection, or of the amount of federal financial aid the applicant is receiving)